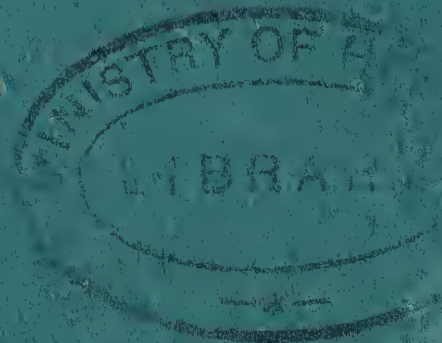


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BOROUGH OF MALDON.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1925,

BY

H. REYNOLDS BROWN,

M.D.

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MALDON:

Gowers Ltd., Printers, 57, High Street.

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# BOROUGH OF MALDON.



**To the Mayor, the Aldermen, and the Burgesses of the  
Borough of Maldon.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report on the Sanitary condition of the Borough of Maldon during 1925.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry, this report includes a review of conditions and changes during the last five years.

The ultimate test of the work of a Sanitary Authority lies in the statistics of sickness and death in their area, so far as these are due to Sanitary conditions which are controllable.

The general death rate depends largely on factors, such as climate, or the average age of the population, over which we can have no control. But the infant death rate, or number of deaths under one year of age per thousand births, and the death rate from infectious and epidemic diseases, and especially from epidemic diarrhoea and enteric fever, are found to be very directly affected by the efficiency of Sanitary Administration. Even where, as with measles and whooping cough, it has so far been found impossible to check the spread of the disease, the death rate is profoundly affected by such things as improvements in housing, sanitation and nursing and in education in hygiene.

Bearing these facts in mind, the following statistics are highly encouraging. I have chosen for comparison the five years preceding the war, as during the war itself social conditions were all profoundly altered.



	1909—1913.	1921—1925.
General Death Rate ... ..	13.3	12.2
Infant Death Rate ... ..	83.8 (1 in 12)	37.2 (1 in 27)
Deaths from Infectious Disease (including Influenza and Pneumonia)	48	11
Deaths from Infantile Diarrhoea	2	0
Notifications of Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	21 (6 deaths)	4 (no deaths)
Notifications of Scarlet Fever	137 (2 deaths)	28 (1 death)
Notifications of Diphtheria ...	56 (4 deaths)	27 (no deaths)

Perhaps the most remarkable improvement shown in these figures is the fall in the infant death rate. Even the figures of 1 in 12 for 1909—13 was wonderfully low when compared, for example, with that for 1883—92, when no less than 134 out of every 1000 infants, or 2 out of 15, failed to live through their first year, and now we have reduced that low figure by more than one half.

In my opinion the improvement is chiefly due to

(1) *A much reduced Birth Rate.*—This fell from 28.9 per 1000 inhabitants in 1883—92, to 20.2 in 1909—13, and to 16 in 1921—5. Children are better cared for in small families, partly because the mother has more time to attend to them, partly because there is more food for them and their mothers to eat, and partly because they are more highly valued.

(2) *Improved Sanitation.* The dusty streets, fly breeding manure heaps and dunghills, and foul smelling privies of thirty years ago have disappeared, and epidemic diarrhoea among infants is now a comparatively rare disease. Improved housing conditions have made it easier for infants to throw off illnesses when they get them.

(3) *The Infant Welfare Centre.*—The importance of the work done, not only in providing milk for necessitous cases, but in educating mothers in their difficult job of rearing children cannot be over estimated.

As to the future, the following seems to me to be matters that should receive your consideration :

(1) *THE WATER SUPPLY.* Intermittent distribution is a constant source of danger as well as of inconvenience.

(2) *HOUSING.* In spite of the great work already done since the war, I believe that you are still justified in pushing on, as you are doing, with the provision of new houses.

(3) REFUSE DISPOSAL. In my opinion it is essential that the present refuse dump should be given up, and that the new one should be on property wholly under the control of the Authority. It will then be possible to sort out the refuse, and to prevent the breeding of rats in it by the destruction of what may serve them as food.

(4) BYE LAWS. It would be well for the Council to consider the advisability of adopting bye-laws as to van, tent or shed dwellers, as procedure under the Public Health Acts is somewhat uncertain.

I have again to thank the Council for the support and my colleagues for the assistance they have given me throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. REYNOLDS BROWN.



## REPORT.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the Borough is 3,028 acres, exclusive of tidal waters, and of about 566 acres of marsh and foreshore. The population was 6,581 at the census of 1921, and was estimated by the Registrar General to have sunk to 6,296 in 1925. In my opinion the population is probably increasing and not diminishing, and if so both the birth and death rates given below are too high.

#### *Physical Features and General Character of the Area.*

Maldon is situated chiefly on the south, but partly on the north side of the rivers Blackwater and Chelmer, the town being at about the upper limit of the tidal waters. Being about 15 miles from the open sea, it is to some extent protected from easterly winds. The soil is London Clay, which at this point goes down to a depth of about 180 feet below ordinance datum. Part of the town lies low, some houses being even below the level of high spring tides, from which they are protected by a sea wall. But the greater part is built on the slopes and summit of a ridge which rises to a maximum height of about 100 feet on the southern (right) bank of the river. The town occupies about one eighth of the area included in the Borough boundary, the remainder being completely rural, with only a few isolated farms and cottages.

#### *General Statistics.*

No. of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	1528
No. of Families, or separate Occupiers (1921)	...	...	1537
Rateable Value	...	...	£22,092
Sum produced by a Penny Rate	...	...	£90

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are in connection with the iron works, timber yards, flour mills, fishing and seafaring, with a few agricultural labourers, and the usual trades of a small country town. House rents are low as a rule, varying from about 5/- per week to 10/- or 15/-. The home industries of the town are negligible in amount. None of the occupations of the inhabitants have any special influence on public health.

#### *Vital Statistics.*

Population (1921)	...	...	6581
Population (estimated, 1925)	...	...	6296

BIRTHS.		Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate	...	44	40	84	13.3
Illegitimate	...	3	2	5	0.8
Total		47	42	89	14.1
DEATHS	...	...	...	...	81
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	13
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth					0
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age					{ Legitimate 2 Illegitimate 0
					1925. 1921-25
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births					{ Legitimate 23.8 36.5 Illegitimate 0 45.
Total					22.4 37.2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					0 0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)					0 0
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					0 0
,, ,, Tuberculosis, Respiratory (all ages)					4 20
,, ,, ,, Non-respiratory ,,					3 13
,, ,, Cancer					15 38

Deaths Classified according to disease in 1925.

Cause of Death.	Influenza.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	Cancer.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage.	Heart Disease.	Arteriosclerosis.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia	Nephritis	Congenital Debility and Malformation. Premature Birth	Suicide	Other defined Diseases.	Total.
Males	2	1	4	...	8	4	6	3	1	1	2	1	1	8	42
Females	2	...	...	3	7	4	14	3	3	2	...	...	...	1	39
Totals	4	1	4	3	15	8	20	6	4	3	2	1	1	9	81



Deaths classified according to age in 1925 :—

Under 1 year	...	...	2
1 year and under 2	...	...	1
2 years and under 5	...	...	0
5 „ „ 15	...	...	2
15 „ „ 25	...	...	3
25 „ „ 45	...	...	7
45 „ „ 65	...	...	24
65 and upwards	...	...	42
			—
			81
			—

*Poor Law Relief.*

75 persons received indoor Poor Law Relief, and 271 outdoor Relief in the year, besides vagrants, 1213 of whom received indoor and 420 outdoor relief, the amount expended on out-relief being £1875. The great bulk of vagrants come in pea-picking time—some of them are accommodated in the Union house, and when this is full they are sent to a barn outside the town. No serious nuisance has arisen from their presence.

*Sickness and Invalidity.*

There have been no special causes of sickness and invalidity during the period under review, and there are no special conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

*Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—*

- (1) *Tuberculosis.* Provided by the County Council.
- (2) *Maternity.* The County Council arranges for admission of difficult cases to hospital.
- (3) *Children.* The County Council arranged for the admission of a few special cases to general or orthopædic hospitals.
- (4) *Fever.* The Isolation Hospital is provided by the Maldon Joint Hospital Board. This body was constituted by the Maldon Joint Hospital Act, 1903, by uniting the Borough with the Northern parishes of the Maldon Rural District. There are 4 elected members from the Town Council, and 5 from the Rural District Council, with the Mayor and the chairman of the Rural District Council ex-offici. The establishment expenses are provided as to four ninths by the Borough of Maldon, and as to five ninths by the

northern parishes of the Rural District. By agreement with the southern parishes of the Rural District, and with the Urban District of Witham and the Maldon Port Sanitary Authority, patients from these districts are also admitted to the hospital at a fixed charge. The general Fever Hospital is situated at Heybridge, about 1 mile outside the Borough boundary. The site is about 3 acres in extent,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres of which are enclosed in a close boarded fence. The permanent buildings are of brick, and include: (1) an administrative block with Matron's sitting room and nurses common room, kitchen, 6 bedrooms and a bath-room. (2) A ward block accommodating 10 beds, divided into two independent units, each with 2 wards and a ward kitchen, and 2 lavatories. (3) A laundry block, including a laundry, disinfecting room with double ended Washington Lyons steam disinfecter, garage and mortuary. (4) A porter's lodge with 5 rooms.

Water is obtained from a deep well on the premises, bored to 180 feet, and is pumped by a hot air engine.

The sewage is disposed of by water carriage to a tank, from which it is pumped by a petrol engine and distributed on an irrigation plot outside the hospital fence.

There is also additional accommodation (20 beds) in four wooden huts, lined with asbestos composition, and heated by stoves. Two of these measure 39ft.  $\times$  13ft., and two 26ft.  $\times$  13ft. One of each size is made in sections and can if necessary, be transported to the Totham Hospital for small pox accommodation. There is a permanent staff of Matron, 3 nurses, cook, 2 ward maids and a porter who is also gardener and ambulance driver. The M.O.H. for the Borough of Maldon is at present the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital.

There is a motor ambulance on the premises.

(5) *Small Pox.* The Maldon Joint Hospital Board has a site for a Small Pox Hospital at Little Totham (4 miles). This consists of a field of about 2 acres,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of which is enclosed in a close boarded fence. There is a permanent corrugated iron kitchen 20ft.  $\times$  15ft., lined with match boarding and provided with a cooking stove. Essential ward furniture is stored in this building, and bedding and linen are held in readiness at the Heybridge Hospital. Two of the wooden huts from Heybridge can also be transported and erected on the ground in a few hours. Water is supplied by a shallow well with a daily yield of 250 gallons outside the fence, to a pump inside.

(6) *Other Hospitals.* There is no other rate supported Hospital in the area, except the Union House Infirmary.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children, except the Union House.



*Ambulance Facilities.*—(a) For infectious cases: a motor ambulance is kept at the Heybridge Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious cases: the British Red Cross Society has ambulances stationed at Chelmsford (11 miles) and at Colchester (16 miles). The Isolation Hospital Ambulance is also allowed to be used on emergency, at the discretion of the Medical Superintendent.

*Clinics and Treatment Centres.*—

	Address.	Accommodation.	By whom provided.
Maldon Infant Welfare Centre	Progressive Club, Silver St.	2 rooms & lavatory.	Managed by a Voluntary Com- mittee. Medical Officer and some Funds provided by County Council, supplemented by a grant from the Town Council.
Day Nursery.	None.		
School Clinic	None.		
Tuberculosis Dispensary	114, High St.	2 rooms.	County Council.
V.D. Treatment Centre.	None (nearest available at Chelmsford).		

*Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.*

Medical Officer of Health—H. REYNOLDS BROWN, M.A., M.D. Edin. (part time.) Is also Medical Inspector of Isolation Hospital, and a Poor Law M.O. and Port M.O.H.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (unpaid)—M. W. FALKNER, F.R.C.S.I. (part time.)

Sanitary Inspector—T. RUSSELL SWALES, M.R. SAN. I. (Is also Borough Surveyor, Water Engineer and Port S.I.)

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—W. TAYLOR.

One half of the salary of the M.O.H., Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Sanitary Inspector is repaid by the County Council.

Health Visitor—MISS CLAPSON, CERTIFICATED NURSE, C.M.B. (Provided by the County Council). (Is also Health Visitor for part of the R.S.D., and Tuberculosis and School Nurse for both areas. Her total area extends to 21,000 acres, with a population of 9,328.

*Professional Nursing in the Home.*—The Maldon Cottage Nursing Association, provides one nurse for general nursing and another, who is a Certificated Midwife, for maternity work. The Association receives an annual grant of £20 from the Essex County Nursing Association has a small income from a local charity and some investments, and is otherwise supported by voluntary subscriptions and the Nurses' earnings. It is not in any way connected with the Local Authority.

There is no provision for the nursing of infectious diseases in their homes.

*Midwives.*—Besides the Midwife provided by the above Association, there is one other certificated Midwife in private practice in the area.

*Chemical Work.*—The administration of the Food and Drugs Act is in the hands of the County Council, who also undertake water analysis.

#### *Local Legislation in Force in the Area.*

##### Local Sanitary Acts :—

The Maldon Water Works Act, 1898.

The Maldon Joint Hospital Act, 1903.

##### Adoptive Acts in force :—

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890 (adopted 1891).

The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, parts II, III and IV (adopted 1891).

Private Streets Works Act, 1892 (adopted 1902).

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, parts II, V, VI, X, and secs. 34—51 (inclusive) in Part III, and secs. 52—67 (inclusive) in Part IV (adopted 1910).

##### Bye-Laws :—

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops	1902
Nuisances	1914
Slaughter Houses	1914
Common Lodging Houses	1914
New Streets and Buildings	1925

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

*Water.*—The Water Supply is in the hands of the Corporation. (1) Spital Road Well. This is sunk to 234 feet (119 below O.D.) to the Thanet lands. Its yield is about 50,000 gallons. (2) Wantz Road well. This well is sunk to 156 feet from the surface (100 feet below O.D.) and bored to a further 134 feet. Its yield is at least 100,000 gallons. There is thus a total supply of 150,000 gallons, or 24 gallons per inhabitant.



A clause in the Southend Water Act (1924) allows the Corporation to purchase water from the Southend Water Company, whose main will pass through part of the Borough, so as to raise the available supply to 27 gallons per inhabitant including what can be derived from existing supplies.

The water from the Corporation's wells is free from organic pollution, has practically no plumbic solvent action, is of 4° (Spital Road Well) to 8° (Wantz Road Well) hardness and not excessively saline (5 and 7 grains of salt per gallon respectively from the two sources).

Distribution is on the intermittent system.

The Corporation also owns a small spring, known as the Cromwell Spring, which has a local reputation, as it is hard and palatable. It is derived from a surface source, and is liable to pollution, although on the last analysis it was found wholesome. The water is led to a tank from which it is delivered by a tap. A board has been fixed above giving warning that it is liable to pollution.

There are also privately owned deep wells at the Union House and at a brewery.

*Rivers and Streams* — The only fresh water river in the Borough is the Chelmer. It receives no pollution within the Borough boundary.

The tidal waters of the Blackwater estuary receive the greater part of the Maldon sewage, after screening. There is a possibility of contamination of shellfish, and I have found slight signs of it as far as two miles below the outfall, but lower down oysters taken from the river bed satisfied Houston's "stringent standard."

At the time of the last survey Report there were complaints of contamination of the river bed by tarry matter from a suction gas plant. This has since been remedied.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—Of the 1649 houses in the Borough about 1230 are connected with a system of sewers leading to tanks where the sewage is screened, the effluent being discharged into the tidal river about 1 mile below the town, on the ebb. About 240 houses on the North slope of the town are drained by short sewers into the tidal water opposite to the town. About 153 houses on the North side of the river are on low-lying ground, for which no satisfactory system of sewerage has been found possible. They are provided with pail closets, which are emptied twice weekly by the Sanitary Authority. Their slop water is disposed of in some cases by sewers leading to the river, and in others by cesspools. As there are no wells in the neighbourhood there is no danger of contamination.

*Closet Accommodation.*—There are

Water Closets	...	1469
Waste Water Closets	...	71
Pail Closets	...	153
Privies	...	18

The privies are in the Rural part of the Borough.

*Scavenging.*—About 1,469 houses are provided with moveable sanitary Dust Bins. These are emptied weekly by the Local Sanitary Authority.

The refuse carts are emptied on a dump by the river, which belongs to a private owner, and is infested by rats. It is desirable that a new dump should be provided, on land owned or leased by the Corporation, where rubbish could be sorted and properly dealt with, and the rat nuisance kept in check.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following inspections were carried out during the year by the M.O.H., the S.I., and his deputy :

				Notices.		Result.
				Inspections.	Statutory.	
General	...	...	417	42	23	All
Bakehouses (11 in number)	22	—	—	—	—	complied
Slaughterhouses 6 in	14	—	—	—	—	with.
Dairies and Cowsheds	15					
in number	...	...	30	—	—	
				—	—	
Totals	...	479	42	23		

The condition of the Bakehouses, Slaughterhouses, Dairies and Cowsheds was found on the whole satisfactory.

*Smoke abatement.*—No action in this respect has been required.

#### *Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.*

		Number.	Inspected and found
Houses let in lodgings	...	1	
Offensive Trades	...	none.	satisfactory.
Lodging and accommodation	...		There are no bye-laws to control these.
of Pea-pickers :			
Underground Sleeping rooms	...	none.	



*Schools.*—The school premises are satisfactory as to sanitary accommodation and water supply.

*Health of Scholars and Spread of Infectious Disease.*—The general health of scholars is supervised by the County School Medical Officers.

The action taken with regard to the spread of infectious disease has been as follows :

All cases of exclusion of school children on account of alleged infectious disease are reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

When the severer infectious diseases (scarlet fever, diphtheria, &c.), come to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health, all contacts are excluded from school for a sufficient period of quarantine. In the case of measles, whooping cough, German measles and chicken pox, contacts who have not had the disease are excluded in all cases. Contacts who have had the disease are excluded only if attending the infants' department.

In one case during the period under review (1924), there was ground for believing that diphtheria was being spread from a School. All the children in the department infected were examined and swabs were taken. One carrier was detected and excluded. No further cases occurred.

## HOUSING.

I. *General Housing Conditions.*—The density of population rose from 4.21 in 1901 to 4.36 in 1911, and fell to 4.12 in 1921. In spite of this, and of the provision of 130 new houses since 1920, there are no vacant houses available, and the house agents report long waiting lists. The population is estimated by the Registrar General to be diminishing, but in my opinion it is probably increasing. The Council has completed 72 houses since January, 1921, and is still pushing forward with this essential work. A new factory has been opened just outside the area, and will certainly increase the demand for houses.

II. *Overcrowding.* Cases of overcrowding still occur from time to time, and it is impossible to adopt a very high standard in view of the shortage of houses. This is inevitable until building has overtaken the growth of population.

Only one case was met with in 1925 where action was found necessary, and it was dealt with informally.

## III. *Fitness of Houses.*

(1) *General Standard of Housing in the Area.* There are still a number of houses in the Borough which are of an undesirable

type. Many are old houses, dating back to the XVIIth century or even earlier, with small and low rooms, insufficient space round about or without backyards. There are only eight back-to-back houses. Generally speaking the houses built since about the middle of the XIXth century are at least, fairly good. In one area the tenants are not sufficiently civilized not to destroy the houses they live in. A few landlords are backward in carrying out necessary repairs, but they are dealt with as occasion arises.

(2). *General action taken as regards unfit Houses.*

Action is taken under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Act (1925) as seems advisable. No legal action, apart from the service of statutory notices, has been found necessary.

No special difficulty has been found in remedying unfitness.

There have been no refusals to comply with notices as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas.* No complaints have been received, or representations made, in regard to unhealthy areas.

V. *Byelaws.* The bye-laws relating to houses let in lodgings are sufficient. It is desirable that bye-laws relating to tents, vans, sheds, &c., should be adopted.

# HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a)	Total (including those given under (b))	...	...	26
(b)	With State Assistance under the Housing Acts—			
	(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	16
	(ii) By other persons	...	...	8

## 1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection (1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	417
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	27
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	2
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	25



2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officer ... .. Nil

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. 25

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) By Owners ... .. 13

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 40

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) By Owners ... .. 40

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... .. 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... .. 2

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... .. 2

(4) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. Nil

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

(i) No action was taken as to tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle.

(ii) No licenses were granted for the sale of milk under special designations

(iii) There was no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers of milk.

(iv) No bacteriological examination of milk was made by the Local Authority.

(b) *Meat Supply.*

(i) The Assistant Sanitary Inspector was appointed an inspector under the Meat Regulation (1924).

A conference with the Butchers and Meat Retailers in the Borough was held by the Sanitary Authority, at which the Meat Regulations (1924) were explained, and steps necessary for compliance with them were recommended. The Sanitary Inspector or his Deputy visits the slaughter-houses at the time of slaughter, or immediately after, and where any carcase or part of a carcase is suspected, the Medical Officer of Health also visits and pronounces on it.

(ii) The meat retailers in the Borough have carried out the Public Health (Meat) Regulations (1924), as regards stalls, shops, stores and vehicles, in a very efficient manner. No action by the Local Authority has been found necessary.

(iii) There is no public slaughter-house in the area.

The following private slaughter-houses were in use in the area, all of which were licensed :

In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
6	7	7

(c) *Other Foods.*—Bakehouses and places where foods are prepared, stored and exposed for sale were inspected and their sanitary condition found satisfactory.

(d) *Food Poisoning.* No case of food poisoning occurred in the area.

(e)—The Council is not a Local Authority under the sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The period since 1920 has been relatively free from infectious disease. In the five years 1921—25 the notification of scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric and paratyphoid fever have numbered 28, 27, and 5, respectively. In the five years before the war, 1909 to 1913, the corresponding figures were 136, 56 and 21.

No death occurred during the whole period from epidemic diarrhoea, measles or whooping cough, while the absence of other zymotic diseases, may be chiefly due to good fortune, the practical



disappearance of enteric fever, and infantile diarrhoea seems to have followed on (1) the abolition of privies, which used to be emptied on small gardens; (2) the substitution of covered moveable house refuse receptacles for dunghills; and (3) the great reduction in dust, owing to the tarring of all the roads in the town.

The fact that of the 27 cases of diphtheria not one was fatal, is encouraging. This is, no doubt, due to the early use of anti-toxine in all cases. A supply is kept by the Medical Officer of Health, both for curative and prophylactic use. Carriers, when discovered are isolated until bacteriologically safe.

The scarlet fever cases were almost all mild. There was one death among the 28. There were no "return cases"—i.e., cases where a patient on return from hospital re-infected his home.

One case of typhoid was notified in 1921—three of paratyphoid B in 1924 and one in 1925. These cases were certainly not connected with one another, and it was not found possible to trace the source of infection. None of these cases died.

Two cases of encephalitis lethargica were notified, one of which was fatal. The other was an imported case; unconnected with the first.

There were eight deaths attributed to influenza during the five years. This disease has been practically always present, and generally of a mild type. No cases of the severe 1918 type were seen.

38 deaths were attributed to cancer (7.2 per year). In the five years before the war there were 54 (10.8 per year).

The Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever and artificial immunization against these diseases have not been used.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (small pox prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Bacteriological and pathological specimens are examined at the expense of the County Council at the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street. The following specimens were reported on in 1925:

Diphtheria	...	...	30
Sputa	...	...	55
Typhoid	...	...	8
Ringworm	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	2
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	99

*Disinfection.*—Verminous persons or clothing are disinfected at the Isolation Hospital, or at the Union House.

Premises exposed to infection are disinfected by formalin spray by the Local Authority. Clothes and bedding are disinfected by steam at the Isolation Hospital.

*Notifiable Diseases during 1925.*

AGE.	4-5	5-10	15-20	20-35	45-65	65 up- wards.	Totals.	Admit'd to Hosp'tl.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	2	3	1	...	...	...	6	4	...
Diphtheria ...	...	1	1	2	1	1	6	3	..
Paratyphoid ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Polioneyelitis ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Totals ...	2	4	4	3	2	2	17	8	2

*Tuberculosis.**New cases and mortality during 1925.*

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5—10 ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10—15 ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
15—20 ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 ...	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	...
25—35 ..	...	1	3	...	...	1	...	...
35—45 ...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1
45—55 ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
55—65 ...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 upwards ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total ...	7	7	4	4	4	...	...	3

There was one non-notified tuberculosis (non-pulmonary) death. This was apparently due to an oversight. There appear to be no cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

No action was required under the Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 25 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

### *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

The Local Authority has handed over its powers under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, to the County Council.

There have been no cases of Puerperal Fever or Ophthalmia Neonatorum, or of Poliomyelitis in infants; and no deaths from measles, whooping cough or epidemic diarrhoea.

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

### *1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or  
Inspectors of Nuisances

Inspections. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	4	None.	None.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	34	None.	None.
Workplaces other than Outworkers' premises	—	—	—
Total ... ..	38	None.	None.



2.—*Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Particulars.  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	1	1	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s 101)...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total ...	3	3	—	—

\*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Outwork in unwholesome premises, section 108 ... None.





